

# DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND CONSERVATION

## Forestry Division



STEVE BULLOCK, GOVERNOR

# STATE OF MONTANA

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January 7<sup>th</sup>, 2015

To Interested Party:

Governor Bullock's [Forest in Focus Initiative](#) is a multi-dimensional strategy to accelerate the pace and scale of forest restoration in the state of Montana. A key focus of this initiative is working in partnership with the USDA Forest Service (USFS) to ensure implementation of forest restoration projects on national forest system lands. Further information about the Forests in Focus Initiative can be found at [www.dnrc.mt.gov](http://www.dnrc.mt.gov).

Consistent with authority granted in 76-13-150 MCA, Governor Bullock has directed the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) to invest up to one million dollars in USFS forest restoration, fuel reduction, and forest health projects in Montana. Project proposals submitted must meet the intent of this Initiative and illustrate that the pace and outcomes of the proposed project will benefit from state funding. Project proposals submitted to DNRC by the USFS will be evaluated using the following criteria:

- Is the proposed project within the Priority Landscapes designated under the 2014 Farm Bill;
- Is the proposed project developed collaboratively with interested stakeholders;
- Does the project provide restoration of vegetation, watersheds and wildlife habitat;
- Does the proposed project produce commercial timber volume;
- Does the proposed project enhance recreational opportunities; and
- Is the proposed project financially viable.

We invite comments on the proposed state action of issuing up to one million dollars of state funds to the USFS for projects that meet some or all of the above criteria. For all projects submitted to DNRC, the USFS will conduct project specific analysis using federal National Environmental Policy Act procedures.

All comments submitted to DNRC which pertain to this proposed action will be considered and addressed in the final Montana Environmental Policy Act environmental review document.

DNRC invites comments and suggestions concerning this proposal from all interested parties. Please respond by February 5, 2015 to:

**Department of Natural Resources and Conservation**  
**Attn: Maureen Bookwalter**  
**2705 Spurgin Rd., Missoula, MT 59804 Or Email: [mbookwalter@mt.gov](mailto:mbookwalter@mt.gov)**  
**Include "Forest in Focus Initiative" in your subject line.**